

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 00802 01 OF 02 072028Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10
ACDA-12 SOE-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NASA-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
DOE-11 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 /151 W
-----007724 072100Z /72

R 071954Z MAR 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9906

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION GENEVA

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 00802

GENEVA FOR CCD DEL

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, UNGA, FR, US

SUBJECT: US/FRENCH CONSULTATIONS ON THE SPECIAL SESSION
ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD)

SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSION WITH AMB LEONARD MARCH 6 UN PERM-
REP LEPRETTE SAID THAT FRANCE REMAINS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ITS INITIATIVE ON DISARMA-
MENT AND PREDICTED THAT FRENCH ELECTIONS PROBABLY WOULD
NOT AFFECT MAJOR OUTLINES OF THEIR DISARMAMENT/SECURITY
POLICY. LEPRETTE WILL CONSULT WITH TAITTINGER IN PARIS
WEEK OF MARCH 13-17 RE SSOD INCLUDING QUESTION OF LEVEL
AND VENUE OF FRENCH/SOVIET CONSULTATIONS. LEPRETTE CON-
FIRMED IMPRESSION OF SOVIET AND WESTERN COOLNESS TO
THEIR INITIATIVE; CHINESE ON THE OTHER HAND HAVE INDICA-
TED AT LEAST SOME INTEREST. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 00802 01 OF 02 072028Z

1. SUBSEQUENT TO MARCH 3 DISCUSSION WITH FRENCH UN
MISSION REPORTED USUN 792, UN PERMREP LEPRETTE AND AMB
LEONARD DISCUSSED THE FRENCH INITIATIVE AND PREPARATIONS
FOR THE SSOD ON MARCH 6. LEONARD WELCOMED FRENCH INITIA-
TIVE AS VIRTUALLY THE ONLY NEW IDEA WHICH HAS BEEN
PRESENTED TO THE SSOD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, AND ALSO
INDICATED OUR DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE NON-ALIGNED

APPROACH OF PUTTING FORWARD UNACCEPTABLE MAXIMALIST POSITIONS AT PREPCOM IV. LEPRETTE SAID THAT FRANCE HAD DECIDED ALREADY LAST SUMMER THAT THE SPECIAL SESSION MADE NECESSARY A REVIEW OF DISARMAMENT POLICY AND THAT HE HAD PUSHED HARD FOR THIS TO BE DONE FAR IN ADVANCE OF THE ELECTION. INITIAL CONSULTATIONS WITH SOVIETS AND WESTERN EUROPEANS REVEALED CONSIDERABLE RESERVATIONS ABOUT FRENCH PROPOSALS, BUT FRENCH REMAIN PREPARED TO TAKE THESE CONCERNS INTO ACCOUNT AND ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF RE-THINKING SPECIFICS OF THEIR PROPOSALS.

2. THE ELECTION: IN RESPONSE TO LEONARD'S QUERY RE THE LIKELY IMPACT OF THE ELECTION ON DISARMAMENT POLICY, LEPRETTE SAID THIS WAS NOT A MAJOR ISSUE IN THE ELECTION, AND BARRING A RADICAL RESHUFFLE THERE WOULD BE NO BASIC CHANGE IN GOF DISARMAMENT POLICY. HE IMPLIED THAT THIS WOULD BE THE CASE EVEN IF THE LEFT WON THE ELECTION, ARGUING THAT THERE IS A BROAD NATIONAL CONSENSUS ON SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT ISSUES. LEONARD EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSISTENCY NOW THAT THE FRENCH HAVE TAKEN A MORE ACTIVE AND POSITIVE APPROACH. THE FRENCH REPUTATION, HE SAID, WOULD SUFFER IF ITS INITIATIVE IS PERCEIVED SIMPLY AS AN ELECTION PLOY.

3. FRENCH PROPOSAL ON UN NEGOTIATING FORUM: IN ADDITION TO VIEWS REPORTED PARA 6 REFTEL, LEPRETTE SAID THAT MAJOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 00802 01 OF 02 072028Z

CONSIDERATION IN PROPOSING THAT ANY NEW NEGOTIATING FORUM SHOULD INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WAS THE IMPORTANCE OF REESTABLISHING THE PRINCIPLE, IN ARTICLE 23 OF THE UN CHARTER, THAT NON-PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS SHOULD BE ELECTED WITH DUE REGARD TO THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. THE FRENCH BELIEVE THAT IT HAS BEEN A MISTAKE TO ENCOURAGE THE ELECTION OF NON-PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ONLY ON THE BASIS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AND REGIONAL CONSIDERATIONS. LEONARD SAID THE US WOULD SUPPORT FRANCE IF IT MADE A REAL EFFORT TO DEVELOP MORE RESPONSIBLE APPROACHES TO SECURITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS. HE WARNED THAT SMALLER COUNTRIES INEVITABLY WOULD ACCUSE FRANCE OF TRYING TO PERPETUATE CONTROL OF UN BY MAJOR POWERS.

4. ROLE OF CHINA: ANOTHER PURPOSE OF EMPHASIS ON SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP FOR NEW UN DISARMAMENT FORUM, LEPRETTE CONTINUED, WAS TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE CHINESE TO PARTICIPATE IN DISARMAMENT THROUGH ITS ROLE IN THE UN SYSTEM. LEPRETTE INDICATED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED SSOD WITH CHINESE DEPUTY PERMREP LAI YA-LI, BUT PROVIDED NO

DETAILS RE BARRE'S VISIT TO PEKING. HIS VERY TENTATIVE IMPRESSION IS THAT THERE IS NEW CHINESE INTEREST IN DISARMAMENT AND THE SSOD.

5. LEPRETTE SAID IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO EXPLORE CHINESE ATTITUDES TO NEW UN NEGOTIATING FORUM ENVISAGED BY FRANCE. LEONARD WONDERED WHETHER "EMPTY CHAIR" APPROACH WOULD WORK ANY BETTER FOR CHINESE IN NEW FORUM THAN IT HAD FOR FRANCE IN ENDC-CCD. REQUIREMENT TO EXPLAIN WHY CHAIR WAS EMPTY COULD ENTRENCH A NEGATIVE CHINESE POSITION. IT WOULD BE BREAKTHROUGH IF CHINA NOW SUPPORTED THE FRENCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 00802 02 OF 02 072033Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10
ACDA-12 SOE-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NASA-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
DOE-11 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 /151 W
-----007766 072100Z /72

R 071954Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9907
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION GENEVA
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 00802

GENEVA FOR CCD DEL

INITIATIVE. LEONARD ENCOURAGED CONTINUED FRENCH/CHINESE DISCUSSION, NOTING THAT FRANCE WAS IN A BETTER POSITION THAN THE US AT THIS STAGE TO TALK WITH THE CHINESE GIVEN THE SENSITIVITY OF US/SOVIET POSITION AND RELATIONSHIP IN DISARMAMENT FIELD.

7. FRENCH/SOVIET CONSULTATIONS: LEPRETTE INDICATED THAT FRANCE HAS NOT YET HELD ANY IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS ON THEIR NEW INITIATIVE. THE SOVIETS HAVE WELCOMED THE RENEWED FRENCH INTEREST IN DISARMAMENT IN A RATHER GENERAL MANNER BUT HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF THE SPECIFICS. LEPRETTE SAID THAT HE WILL DISCUSS POSSIBIL-

ITY OF FURTHER FRENCH/SOVIET CONSULTATIONS, INCLUDING QUESTIONS OF LEVEL AND VENUE, WITH TAITTINGER IN PARIS NEXT WEEK. LEONARD SAID THAT THESE CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE VALUABLE IF FRENCH CAREFULLY SELECTED SOVIET INTERLOCUTORS WHO WERE FAMILIAR WITH DISARMAMENT ISSUES.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 00802 02 OF 02 072033Z

8. FRENCH REACTION TO THE NON-ALIGNED PROPOSAL:
LEPRETTE INDICATED FRENCH OPPOSITION TO NON-ALIGNED/ INDIAN PROPOSAL OF THREE-TIERED (FIRST COMMITTEE, NEW UN BODY, AND CCD) ARRANGEMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS. THIS PROPOSAL, HE SAID, WOULD PRESERVE THE CCD INTACT AND WAS THEREFORE UNACCEPTABLE. HE WAS ALSO UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN AN ECOSOC-TYPE UN DISARMAMENT FORUM IN NEW YORK. WE NOTED THAT MANY NON-ALIGNED BELIEVE SUCH A THREE-TIERED ARRANGEMENT MAY BE BEST COMPROMISE BETWEEN CURRENT SITUATION, WITH NON FRENCH/CHINESE PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS, AND FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE CCD, WHICH RAISES SPECTRE OF ROTATION FOR MANY CCD MEMBERS . INDIANS BELIEVE THEIR PROPOSAL IS ALSO BEST WAY TO FACILITATE CHINESE PARTICIPATION AT THIS TIME IN DISARMAMENT DISCUSSIONS. LEPRETTE ACKNOWLEDGED THE POINT BUT REMAINED SKEPTICAL.

9. POSSIBLE US INITIATIVE: LEPRETTE ASKED WHEN THE US WOULD BE ANNOUNCING ITS OWN INITIATIVES AND POSITION FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION. LEONARD SAID THESE MATTERS WERE UNDER ACTIVE REVIEW IN WASHINGTON BUT THAT IT WOULD STILL BE SOMETIME BEFORE DECISIONS WERE FINALIZED. LEPRETTE INDICATED IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR FRENCH TO HAVE EARLY READING ON POSSIBLE US INITIATIVES.

10. COMMENT: FRENCH ARE CLEARLY RECEPTIVE TO FURTHER DIALOGUE WITH US ON THEIR MACHINERY INITIATIVE. WE CONTINUE TO SEE MERIT IN VISIT OF HIGH-RANKING ACDA OFFICIAL TO PARIS TO DISCUSS THESE ISSUES IN MORE DETAIL. WE ALSO BELIEVE FRENCH PROPOSAL WARRANTS CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. AS DESCRIBED IN USUN 738 IT SEEMS TO BE CONSISTENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 00802 02 OF 02 072033Z

WITH OUR INTEREST IN PRESERVING THE INTEGRITY OF A DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATING FORUM THROUGH ASSURANCE OF CONSENSUS. IF ACTIVE FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS IS INDEED A MAJOR US OBJECTIVE, WE BELIEVE THAT THEIR INITIA-

TIVE SHOULD BECOME SUBJECT OF US/SOVIET CONSULTATIONS
BEFORE THE SSOD. IT IS OUR ESTIMATE THAT WITHOUT US/SOVIET
SUPPORT THE FRENCH INITIATIVE WILL FLOUNDER, WHEREAS IT
WOULD HAVE A FAIR CHANCE OF ACCEPTANCE IF BOTH OF US WERE
TO DEVELOP WITH THE FRENCH A VERSION BEHIND WHICH REALISTIC
AND ACTIVIST LEADERS IN DISARMAMENT MATTERS COULD RALLY.
YOUNG

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISARMAMENT, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN00802
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780103-0282
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780395/aaaadcwv.tel
Line Count: 231
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e0da97cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3411010
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/FRENCH CONSULTATIONS ON THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD) SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSION WITH AMB LEONARD MARCH 6 UN
TAGS: PGOV, FR, US, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e0da97cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014